

Rolf Gradinger, Institut für Polarökologie der Universität Kiel

Joint German-Finnish field course on ice physics and ecology

In early spring 1997 a new cooperation programme between the University of Helsinki (UH), the Institute for Marine Research, Helsinki (IFMR), and the Institute for Polar Ecology Kiel (IPÖ) was established. Teachers from both countries supervised a joint course with 20 Finnish, Estonian and German students at the Tvärminne Research Station in south-western Finland. Main organizers of the course had been J. Ikävalko (UH, IPÖ), R. Gradinger (IPÖ), Harri Kuosa (IFMR), M. Lapparanta (UH), A. Niemi (UH), and M. Spindler (IPÖ). The major goal of the course was to introduce the students into the physical and biological properties of the Baltic Sea ice. As location served the Tvärminne Zoological Station which is situated at the southernmost tip of the Finnish mainland at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland where sea ice covers small bays and the coastal zone in most years.

The course took place from 17.3. to 25.3.97 and we were lucky enough to meet conditions with a forming sea ice cover under different hydrographical regimes. After two days, working groups with 2-4 students were formed and the following topics were addressed by field sampling and experimental studies:

- Optical properties observations of sea ice in Tvärminne (K. Rasmus, A. Reinart)
- Suspended matter in sea ice and water in the Tvärminne area (M. Granskog, K. Masson)

- Ice and Plankton biota in Pojo and Santala Bay (J. Palosaari, J. Fehling)
- Use of fluorescently labelled prey (FLP) to estimate protozoan grazing rates in Baltic Sea ice and under ice water (K. Meiners, B. Obermüller)
- Investigation on different stages of new ice formation around Tvärminne Zoological Station (A. Kremp, M. Daase)
- The sub-ice and water column communities in Baltic Sea ice in spring, samples by divers (B. Bluhm, R. Flinkman, C. Peters, A. Ruuskanen)
- Effect of ice sample melting on microbial activity in Baltic Sea ice (H. Kaartokallio, U. Tunte, C. Lampert, M. Steffens).

The compilation of all these studies in the "Course report of the joint German-Finnish field course on ice physics and ecology" demonstrates the success of this course, which was based on the high motivation of all participants and the generous hospitality and support at the Tvärminne Station.

Based on our excellent experiences we want to continue our joint projects and hopefully the next international course will be held in Tvärminne in March 1998.

Rolf Gradinger
Institut für Polarökologie
Wischhofstr. 1-3
D-24148 Kiel, Germany